

Chapter 2

2 Documenting the Update Process

Documentation of the planning process, including public involvement, is required to meet FEMA's DMA 2000 (44CFR§201.4(c)(1) and §201.6(c)(1)). This section includes a description of the update addendum planning process.

2.1 *The Planning Team*

Planning efforts were led by the Project Co-Directors, Tera R. King, B.S. and Vaiden Bloch, M.S., of Northwest Management, Inc. Leading efforts from Idaho County, was Jerry Zumalt, Idaho County Disaster Management Coordinator, and Jim Davis, Idaho County Wildfire Mitigation Director. Mr. Zumalt and Mr. Davis organized meetings, facilitated information management, and coordinated many activities associated with the development of the addendum.

2.2 *Public Involvement*

The update addendum planning committee felt it was important to inform the public of the update planning process as well as provide an opportunity for public comment.

2.2.1 News Releases

As part of the five county 2007 WUI Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update process, news releases were submitted to numerous local newspapers including Clearwater Progress, Lewiston Tribune, Idaho County Free Press, Moscow Daily News, Central Idaho Post, Salmon River Current, Clearwater Tribune, and the Latah Eagle.

Figure 2.1. May 14, 2007 Media Release.

Central Idaho Counties to Update Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans

The local county commissioners and the Clearwater RC&D have reconvened the Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan committees to update the existing Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans for each of Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, Clearwater, and Idaho Counties. The respective county planning committees will be re-evaluating the prioritized mitigation project lists to add new projects and update those that have been completed or are ongoing. The committees will also be working on updating mapping components and adding wildfire risk assessments for new housing developments. Rural and wildland fire districts, land managers, elected officials, agency representatives, and others are represented on the local planning committees for this project. Northwest Management, Inc., a natural resource consulting firm, will be assisting the five county area with the update process.

Once the revised sections are completed, the planning teams will conduct public review periods during which the draft addendums will be available throughout each county for review and comment. A notice on the locations of these drafts will be posted in local newspapers.

The existing Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans for all Idaho counties can be found at the Idaho Department of Lands website (www.idl.idaho.gov/nat_fire_plan/county_wui_plans/index.htm). For more information on the Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan update process call Tera King at the Northwest Management, Inc. office in Moscow, Idaho at 208-883-4488 or contact the county representatives listed below.

Idaho County Jim Davis, County Wildfire Mitigation Director 208-983-3074	Latah County Alan Martinson, Disaster Services 208-882-8580
Lewis County Dave Hasz, Disaster and Emergency Services 208-937-2380	
Clearwater County Don Gardner, Disaster and Emergency Services 208-476-4064	Nez Perce County Ron Hall, Nez Perce County Fire Chief 208-298-0165

2.3 Committee Meetings

Three committee meetings were held during the update process.

2.3.1 May 8th, 2007 – Super 8 Motel

The 27 attendees at the first update planning committee meeting discussed the overall goal and planning process of the update project as well as began identifying action items and projects that had been completed, were ongoing, or had not yet begun. Several members of the committee agreed to provide updated information on several sections of the document. Northwest Management, Inc. will be updating the Wildland Urban Interface map; however, none of the other original maps will be updated at this time.

2.3.2 June 19th, 2007 – Super 8 Motel

The 19 attendees at the second update planning committee meeting reviewed the draft addendum for inclusion of all necessary updated elements in preparation for sending the draft document out for public review. It was noted that several of the fire departments/agencies had not sent in their edits and; thus, were not included in the addendum. Tera and several other

members of the committee will work to contact the outstanding departments/agencies as soon as possible. The public review process is set to begin on July 6th and run until July 20th. Kristen Sanders with the BLM also gave a brief presentation on the interagency Prevention Coop being organized by Susan Jenkins, Salmon River Ranger District.